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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

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FL. 233



AUGUST, 1962

Employment at 177,300 After 900 Drop from June

Non-agricultural employment in July, at 177,300, was but 100 short of the record for that month set in 1956. Employment moved upward from June in 5 major industrial groups, remained the same in two, and de-clined in one. The decline was all in government payrolls, down 1,900 from June chiefly as the result of the release of teachers and other school workers for the summer season. Over the month employment gains of 1,000 in other industry groups held the statewide decline to 900 from June to

MSES Places 12,609 in Jobs

The 22 local offices of the Montana State Employment Service placed 12, 609 workers in jobs during July. Of this number, 4,690 were absorbed in payrolls of industry and commerce, and 7,919 in a variety of farm work. The state's industrial employers listed 4,858 job openings with these offices during July, 850 more than in July, 1961. Nearly one-fourth, or 1,206, of the non-farm placements were in wholesale and retail trade establishments. Next in order were, service industries, 822; manufacturing, 675; and contract construction, 496. The balance The 22 local offices of the Montana State and contract construction, 496. The balance were in railroads, public utilities, mining, government, and private households. Job placements are traditionally at their peak in August due to concentration of seasonal highs in all outdoor activities.

Butte Has Labor Pains

Several labor disputes were in progress during July, but none attracted more attention than the Teamster's dispute in Butte. On July 16, 200 teamsters struck the Anaconda Company's giant open pit, seeking a

STATE APPROACHES EMPLOYMENT PEAK BUT LABOR SUPPLY NOT REDUCED APPRECIABLY

Despite several major labor disputes which blurred economic conditions in a few areas, the active seasonal upsurge in employment continued in most major industry groups during July. Barring further economic setbacks, labor trends during August and September should be even better. Earlier trends pointed to record setting employment levels this year. Two good employment months are still ahead. Employment has but 2,500 to go to reach the record of 179,800 wage earners set in 1956. A disturbing factor remains in the high number of registered job seekers, 10,955 at the end of July, 3,700 more than the average July jobsecker count of the past five years.

new contract with wage increases.

Picket lines were first confined to the pit proper, but then spread to the railroad which hauls ore from the underground mines to the smelter in Anaconda. Railroad operating crews refused to cross the picket lines. The chain reaction which followed caused a complete shutdown of underground mining operations on July 24th, idling some 3,600 workers. The shutdown lasted nine days until a court order restrained the Teamster's Union from picketing the railroad property. Ore began moving from the underground mines on August 3rd, but the pit remained quiet as negotiators continued to try for a settlement.

Mine-Mill Settles

Members of another union, the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, who were caught in a squeeze for a short time by action of the Teamsters voted 1,556 to 176 on July 31st to ratify a contract between their Union and the Anaconda Company. It covers operations at Butte, Great Falls, and East Helena. The contract runs from July 1, 1962 through June 30, 1964, and specifies a 7½ per hour increase across the board effective July 1, 1963. During the first year of the contract, Mine-Mill takes increases in fringe benefits including more hospital aid, vacations, and premium pay for holidays.

Smeltermen at Anaconda who broke away from Mine-Mill for representation by the United Steelworkers are currently engaged in contract negotiations with the Anaconda

Missoula Disputes Settled

Settlement of lengthy labor disputes involving lumber workers and auto mechanics at Missoula returned over 300 workers to their jobs early in August. This left three major disputes still in progress: the teamsters at Butte, a wood products plant at Superior, and power company linemen statewide, all involving around 500 workers.

Problems in Chrome

The 900,000 ton mountain of chromite stockpiled near Nye stirred up some dust at a Congressional hearing in Washington, D. C. It left open for conjecture the question of whether the American Chrome Company would proceed with announced plans for construction of a \$7½ million ferrochrome refinery at Butte.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES (per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

		ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE							
INDUSTRY	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	1) Jun 1962	2) May 1962	June 1961	June 1962	May 1962	June 1961	June 1962	May 1962	June 1961	June 1962	May 1962	June 1961	June 1962	May 1962	June 1961
3) All Manufacturing	7.1 8.6 6.0 3.5	6.1 7.3 5.7 3.7	6.2 7.6 4.0 3.5	5.9 7.1 4.4 3.2	4.5 5.0 3.7 3.4	5.3 6.5 2.3 2.9	3.5 3.8 2.4 3.0	4.3 4.4 4.8 3.9	3.1 3.1 2.3 3.3	2.0 2.1 1.5 1.7	2.0 2.3 1.9 1.3	1.6 1.6 .6 1.5	1.0 1.1 .6 .7	1.2 .8 .3 2.2	.6 .6 .4 .8
All Mining Metal Mining	9.8 7.7	7.9 6.8	9.2 6.6	6.5 3.7	4.3 2.0	3.1 1.0	7.0 5.8	5.6 4.4	4.7	3.0 2.7	2.7 2.7	1.9 1.5	1.6 .7	.9 .1	1.3

Preliminary rates based on all data available at publication time. 2) Figures revised on more complete returns. Total separations include discharges and miscellaneous separations. 3) Excludes sugar and canning industries.

Along the Hiring Line—Field Summary Aug. 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(558 jobseekers, 95 new, 442 men, 116 women). Jobseeker files increased by over 300 due to Butte Teamsters strike which caused heavy layoffs at smelter. More layoffs or possible complete shutdown of smelter operations expected if strike is prolonged. Hiring in trade and service establishments reduced considerably. Farm hiring chiefly for hay hands.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Hysham, Laurel, Rcd Lodge, Roundup—(1,978 jobseekers, 945 new, 1,264 men, 714 women). Employment in most industries generally at seasonal highs. Big volume of heavy and building construction sets the pace, including Yellowtail Dam, highway, civic improvement, and commercial and bome units. New \$1 million 105 room motel scheduled for completion by December. Activity in coal mining, oil fields, railroads, and trucking not too energetic. Sweet corn harvest to start mid-August, employing 70, with canning operations to utilize about 100 workers. Grain harvest now in progress with surplus of men and machines.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(197 jobscekers, 212 new, 94 men, 103 women). Economic trends in industry and farm expected to be at good pace next 60 days. Construction, lumbering and logging, trade and manufacturing industries all operating at good capacity. More expansion in manufacturing and construction on summer schedule. New starts include college dormitory and truck stop. Active hiring in agriculture for variety of farm activities.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(2,400 jobseekers, 278 new, 1,833 men, 567 women). Teamsters' strike which began July 16 closed down all mining operations a week later idling 3,600. Over 2,000 unemployed claims filed as a result. Work on copper concentrator plant about only building project with 350 employed; work force expected to expand by 100 during August. Farm labor demand slow but starting to pick up with haying in Big Hole Basin.

CUT BANK—(159 jobseekers, 97 new, 96 men, 63 women). Industry job placements up 15% over last year with most July hiring by main street trade establishments. Farm job hires down 10% from July, 1961, due chiefly to less labor turnover. Unemployment claims at minimum with most filed from Browning, Babb and East Glacier.

DILLON—(110 jobseckers, 173 new, 83 men, 27 women). Good variety of construction in progress including dam and canals, highways, commercial and home

LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

Employment	1962 July	1962 June	1961 July	1953-62 July Avg.
Industrial Employment	177,300	178,200	175,200	173,100
New Job Applicants	5,321	6,533	3,982	4,093
Job Applicants, End of Month	10,955	11,313	11,725	7,268
Insured Unemployment, Week of	1962 Aug. 3	1962 July 6	1961 Aug. 4	Avg. 1st 1958-62 Aug. Wk.
New and Renewal Claims	775	589	619	586
Unemployed Weeks Filed	3,041	2,354	3,374	3,176
Total Unemployment Claims	3,816	2,943	3,993	3,762

building. New starts include drive-in bank and church. Haying and irrigation main farm work.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(231 jobseekers, 143 new, 113 men, 118 women). Construction employment at air base totals 225, a slight increase over last month. No new contracts or building projects in sight. Main street business appears good with good volume of sales of farm equipment. Farm hiring slowed by rain which destroyed some hay crops.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(154 jobseekers, 63 new, 91 men, 63 women). Work on major building projects and two highway jobs slowed by rains and labor troubles during July. Work began on Glendive-Custer power transmission line but with very little hiring of local people. Grain harvest set for early August with good yield expected despite rust damage in a few areas.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(1,946 jobseekers, 838 new, 921 men, 1,025 women). Good labor demand in all industries during July with most activity in manufacturing, trade and service groups. Job prospects in all appear good next 30 days barring unforeseen economic forces. Heavy registration of transient labor and students during the month. Grain harvest in August will provide hundreds of job openings.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(214 jobseekers, 72 new, 110 men, 104 women). July job placements double last year with labor demand in lumbering and service industries at the top of the hiring agenda. Several forest fires required the service of 150 men. Over 100 hay hands placed during July. August farm activities will require workers for sour cherry and raspberry harvest and more haying.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(95 jobseekers, 51 new, 53 men, 42 women). Economic outlook considerably brighter than last year with improved farm conditions and more construction projects. Trade and service employment at peak with start of grain harvest and continued tourist traffic. Railroad employment shows little change.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulpthur Springs—(493 jobseekers, 199 new, 337 men, 156 women). Hiring pace quickened in most industries during July with most activity in trade, and lumbering and logging fields. Heavy construction employs about 600 men, double last year's figure. Start of new highway project employed 35 men. Good farm labor demand during July with supply and demand nearly in balance, with some shortage of irrigators.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(560 jobseekers, 851 new, 420 men, 140 women). Good economic trends prevail in all industry groups with employment at seasonal highs. Trade and service units benefiting from improved economic climate and record tourist flow. Sawmill and logging payrolls expanded by 100 during July. Construction of natural gas pipeline 85% complete. Sweet cherry harvest in full swing with about 600 pickers and 200 plant workers employed.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnet—(94 jobscekers, 110 new, 58 men, 36 women). Labor market patterns generally active in all industry segments. Construction provided two-thirds of July job orders followed by service and trade industries. Farm labor demand up sharply with start of grain harvest.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(116 jobseekers, 106 new, 49 men, 67 women). Good economic trends prevail in nearly all industries. Over 200 employed on construction projects. New Big Timber-Columbus interstate highway section started. Strong hiring trends exist in lumber and logging with serious shortages of experienced timber fallers. Railroad hiring limited to about 15 track laborers monthly. Yellowstone Park employment at maximum with only occasional demand for service workers.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(67 jobseekers, 100 new, 35 men, 32 women). Labor market activity at good levels in all industries. Construction, trade and service, and farm employment exceeds last year. This trend expected to continue during the next few months.

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)*

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1954	148.8	147.6	149.4	153.4	158.0	164.1	166.6	167.8	157.1	156.1	160.3	158.0	157.2
1955	150.6	149.0	149.6	155.6	160.7	169.2	170.6	172.9	171.7	168.3	164.7	162.7	162.1
1956		154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958		150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959		153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960		152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.7
1961	156.0	154.8	156.0	159.5	164.6	172.9	175.2	176.6	174.6	171.6	167.3	164.2	166.2
1962		158.0	159.0	164.5	170.4	178.2	177.3**						

^{*}Estimates revised on the basis of more complete and accurate figures for industry segments not covered under the Unemployment Insurance Program. **Preliminary Estimate.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary Aug. 1

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(687 jobseekers, 542 new, 428 men, 259 women). Mixed trends dominated July labor market with high employment on one hand and continued idleness of over 500 workers as the result of four labor disputes on the other. Volume in trade industries curbed somewhat as a result. Missoula lumber mill dispute settled as July ended with 285 returning to jobs. Dollar value of current construction projects estimated to be \$12 million. Active hiring of hayhands, irrigators, and truck garden help on the farm front.

POLSON—(315 jobseekers, 191 new, 123 men, 192 women). Sweet cherry harvest highlighted July labor market providing employment for about 100 workers in orchards and warehouses. New super market scheduled to open August 1; city sewer system to be completed by October 1. \$½ million school building 15% finished. Demand for hay hands diminished due to poor second crop.

SHELBY—(303 jobseekers, 88 new, 217 men, 86 women). July labor demand centered chiefly in trade and service establishments. Major construction completed on new post office building; no other projects of consequence. July farm labor demand mostly for hay hands. Grain harvest expected to start August 1.

sidney—(56 jobseekers, 31 new, 19 men, 37 women). Industry job hires show some increase over last year. Some gain noted in construction as new projects started including telephone building and remodeling of existing structures. Grain harvest to start August 1.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(96 jobseekers, 62 new, 69 men, 27 women). Employment trends good in all industries with peak payrolls in lumbering and forest service. Most experienced workers employed with labor surplus chiefly in older worker and unskilled groups. In-migration of workers from Idaho and Washington noted due to strikes in those areas.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(126 jobseekers, 74 new, 65 men, 61 women). Increased employment in cafes, service stations, grain elevators, and farm implement firms as tourist traffic increased and prospects for good grain harvest became evident. Oil field employment declined slightly as two seismograph crews completed work in area. Construction employment showed no advance. Grain harvest to start August 6 with some shortages of experienced help expected.

- (1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.
- (2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 899 selected Montana establishments.
- (3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,387 such establishments.
- (4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.
- (5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

	EM	PLOYME	NT	Net C	hange
INDUSTRY	July 1962 (2)	June	July	June '62	
	1962 (2)	[1962 (3)	1961	July '62	July '62
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	177,300	178,200	175,200	900	2,100
Manufacturing	21,900	21,400	21,200	500	700
Durable goods	14,400	14,300	13,400	100	1,000
Lumber and timber products	8,100	8,000	8,100	100	00
Primary metals Other (4)	3,800 2,500	3,800 2,500	3,600 1,700	00	200 800
Nondurable goods	7,500	7,100	7,800	400	
Food and kindred products	4,200	3,900	4,400	300	200
Printing and publishing	1,700	1,600	1,700	100	00
Petroleum refining Other (5)	800 800	800 800	900 800	00	$-\frac{100}{00}$
Mining	7,300	7,200	7,100	100	200
Metal mining	4,100	4,100	4,200	00	- 100
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic Petroleum-natural gas production	900 2,300	900 2,200	2,100	100	100 200
Contract Construction	15,200	15,100	14,700	100	500
Contractors, building construction	3,900 6,600	4,000 6,500	3,400 7,300	100 100	- 500 - 700
Contractors, special trade	4,700	4,600	4,000	100	700
Transportation and utilities	19,100	18,900	19,300	200	
Interstate railroadsTransportation except railroads	8,700 4,300	8,500 4,300	8,900 4,200	200	
Utilities including communication	6,100	6,100	6,200	00	
TradeWholesale trade	41,100	41,000	41,000	100	100
Retail trade	8,200 32,900	8,100 32,900	8,600 32,400	100 00	- 400 500
General merchandise and apparel	6,000	6,100	6,100	- 100 - 100	— 100
Food stores Eating and drinking establishments	5,200 8,700	5,200 8,600	5,100 8,700	00 100	100
Automotive and filling stations	5,900 7,100	5,900 7,100	6,000 6,500	00	- 100 600
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,800	6,800	6,900	00	
Services and miscellaneous	24,800	24,800	24,600	00	200
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc Personal services	3,900 2,100	3,900 2,100	4,000 2,200	00 00	- 100 - 100
Other (6)	18,800	18,800	18,400	00	400
Government	41,100	43,000	40,400	- 1,900 - 400	700
FederalState and local	12,900 28,200	13,300 29,700	12,500 27,900	$\begin{bmatrix} -400 \\ -1,500 \end{bmatrix}$	400 300
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	24,500	24,500	23,500	00	1,000
Manufacturing	4,200 3,200	4,000 3,400	3,300		900 800
Transportation and utilities	2,100 5,900	2,100	4,000 2,200 5,500	_ 200	— 100
Trade, wholesale and retail	5,900 5,100	5,800 5,200	5,500	$ \frac{100}{100}$	400 300
Government	4,000	4,000	4,800 3,700	00	300
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	24,200	24,000	24,300	200	- 100
Manufacturing Contract construction	3,300 1,800	3,200 1,600	3,100 1,900	100 200	200 100
Transportation and utilities	2,800	2,800	2,900	00	- 100
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,300 1,500	7,300 1,500	7,400 1,500	00	$-\frac{100}{00}$
Services and miscellaneous (8)	3,900	3,900	4,100	00	_ 200
Government	3,600	3,700	3,400	<u> </u>	200

⁽⁶⁾ Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership or-

ganizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

⁽⁷⁾ Same as (6) above. Also includes finance, insurance, real estate and mining.

⁽⁸⁾ Same as (6) above. Also includes mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN JULY, 1962 AND JULY, 1961

Employment			Applica				rs in I		Job Placement						UI Claims			
Service	_ July	1962	_July	1961	July	1962	July 1961		July 1962 July 1961							Wk. 8-4		
Office	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1962	1961
Anaconda	95	10	76	3	558			87	, 87	32	119	16	34	24	58	17	266	205
Billings	945	207	827	186	1,978	360		372	590	1,479	2,069	287	557	793		298		809
Bozeman	212	38	243	66	197	24	472	97	234	214	448	101	201	199		93	37	122
Butte	278	53	263	48	2,400	358			177	24	201]	50	188	12	200	37	1,495	
Cut Bank	97	18	123	31	159	31	376	89	80	60	140	31	64	70	134	46	30	53
Dillon	173	75	212	107	110	27	116	24	77	316		183	83	340		233	34	19
Glasgow	143	35	109	13	231	20	504	72	137	76	213	38	78	33		38	68	187
Glendive	63	170	81	12	154	17	110	21	100	783	883	19	117	340		50	22	43
Great Falls	838	170	560	94	1,946	278		392	572	394	966	291	380	629		204	302	
Hamilton	72 51		64	13	214 95	20] 11	268 146	35 41	225 87	217	442	44	166	196		46	42	47
Havre Helena	199	33	61) 204	37	493	51	507	136	287	246	333	89	86	331	417	114	46	
Kalispell	851	140	270	40	560	122	1,021	219	517	132 404	419 921	134	148	104	252	83	118	
Lewistown	110	23	104	30	94	15	372	79	171	119	290	215 97	368 169	29 97	397	62	191	289
Livingston	106	11	83	19	116	0	146	19	131	103	234	63	138	103	266	101	51	83
Miles City	100	10	100	18	67	4	139	27	114	545	659	39	75	459		111 24	30	70
Missoula	542	69	303	60	687	121	742	142		235	552	154	323	237	560	121		82
Polson	191	8	62	2	315	30	124	27	132	143	275	49	195	819	1.014	269	259 53	298 65
Shelby	88	24	108	27	303	61	147	26	80	83	163	36	91	158		62	32	67
Sidney	31		51	3	56	2	129	13	61	1,623	1,684	26	57	1,442		22	14	32
Thomp. Falls	62	12	30	5	96	16	124	24	91	10	101	32	27	11	38	9	39	55
Wolf Point	74	16	48	9	126	18	215	4	64	51	115	24	41	40	81	19	54	84
TOTALS	5,321	969	3,982	830	 10,955	1,708	11,725	2,217	4,331	7,289	11,620	2,018	3,586	6,466	10,052	2,050	3,816	3,993

^{*}Includes 189 claims of the Fed. UC Program 106 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics) (Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

	Average Weekly Earnings Average Weekly Hours								Earnings
INDUSTRY	July(1) 1962	June(2) 1962	July 1961	July(1) 1962	June(2) 1962	July 1961	July(1) 1962	June(2) 1962	July 1961
All Manufacturing	\$ 97.46	\$ 96.26	\$ 96.43	 39.3	38.2	39.2	\$ 2.48	\$ 2.52	\$ 2.46
Durable goodsPrimary metals	95.50 103.74	92.99 103.74	93.23 105.15	39.3 39.9	37.8 39.9	37.9 40.6	2.43 2.60	2.46 2.60	2.46 2.59
Nondurable goodsFood and kindred products	101.68 81.41	104.04 85.70	102.75 87.36	41.0 40.3	40.8 41.4	41.6 43.9	2.48 2.02	2.55 2.07	2.47
All Mining	111.10	107.73	110.57	41.3	39.9	40.8	2.69	2.70	2.71
Metal mining	107.71	107.71	111.65	39.6	39.6	41.2	2.72	2.72	2.71
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	103.69	99.10	98.08		j				
Transportation (except railroads)	107.19 101.15	99.43 98.89	102.92 94.72	40.3	39.4	39.8	2.51	2.51	2.38

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

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